



NEWS RELEASE

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## **Man Sentenced to Prison for Attempting to Kill Woman in Her Los Angeles Home**

A 21-year-old man was sentenced today to 12 years in state prison for breaking into an elderly woman's home and trying to strangle her, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Jan. 12, William Morales of Los Angeles pleaded no contest to two felony counts in case VA145916: attempted murder and attempted first-degree residential robbery. The defendant also admitted a special allegation that he personally inflicted great bodily injury upon the victim, who was 70 years of age and older.

Deputy District Attorney Amanda Luna of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said on the night of Aug. 6, 2017, an 84-year-old woman was awakened by noise in her Los Angeles home. The woman got up from bed and started walking around her residence when she saw Morales going through her bedroom drawers, according to the prosecutor.

As the elderly woman tried to walk away, the defendant caught up to her. Morales then attempted to strangle the victim while simultaneously punching her until she lost consciousness, the prosecutor added.

The victim's sister also was awakened by noise in the home and went to see what was going on when she found the defendant standing over the injured elderly woman. Morales then fled the scene. Authorities were called and the victim was taken to the hospital for medical treatment, according to the prosecutor.

Less than two weeks after the attack, authorities arrested Morales in connection with the incident.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

**[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.